

For Immediate Release

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Washington, D.C.-- Today, Congressman Sires announced that the Department of Transportation has awarded \$10 million in grant funding for the Northeast Corridor Multi-Modal High Speed Rail Improvement Multi-State Plan. Funding will be used to develop a plan for improved rail service, analyze next generation high-speed rail, and perform requisite environmental analysis. New Jersey is one of eleven states and the District of Columbia that will benefit from this grant and exact dollar amounts for each state and the District of Columbia have not yet been determined.

“New Jersey is an integral part of the Northeast Corridor, which possesses the busiest freight and passenger rail network,” said Congressman Sires. “This multi-modal study will ultimately help to relieve traffic congestion and improve rail capacity through expanded service, reliability, and travel time reduction.”

The Northeast Corridor stretches from Washington, DC to Massachusetts and provides rail access to communities throughout eleven states and the District of Columbia. This area represents nearly 20 percent of the U.S. population, and the planning study is an integral step towards improving the regional transportation network. In addition to creating plans for an integrated transportation network, this project will evaluate future development of next generation high speed rail along the corridor. Projects identified under this planning study, will

be regionally significant and have no significant environmental impacts.

“A more integrated Northeast Corridor will support economic development and meet the needs of our growing population,” said Sires. “The Northeast Corridor already acts to connect various livable communities as well as airports and downtowns. This plan will ensure that future development of the Northeast Corridor includes appropriate plans to best serve our communities.”

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